

TAB A

Abstract from:

Memorandum to Director of Central Intelligence from  
Inspector General dated 19 November 1955, Subject:  
Survey of the Foreign Documents Division, Office of  
Operations

(Page 43) . . . "j. There is also a conflict of effort between FDD and OSI on the translation and publication of materials on the 'Presidium, Academy of Sciences, USSR.' The first two volumes on this subject, consisting of 301 pages, were done by FDD linguists and disseminated as a Summary on 30 August 1950 under the title of 'Information on the Academy of Sciences USSR Collated from Russian Published Sources.' This translation covering a period from 1945 to 1950 was published in two volumes. According to the preface, the material came from Soviet scientific periodical literature and was composed of unevaluated information. This was the first effort of its kind and was generally well received by the intelligence community.

(Page 44) "k. Research analysts in OSI felt, however, that the translations of FDD were not adequate. The information, they asserted, 'had not been selectively filtered . . . it was not complete; it mixed old and new information to the detriment of an understanding on what were the components in existence at the time . . .'. It was also stated in OSI that FDD's work on this subject 'did not answer the intelligence questions . . . and did not present 'a satisfactory picture of how the Presidium was organized; which units were subordinate to others, the magnitude of the effort, the range and character of its interests and responsibilities and other questions of this sort . . .'. The translations from open Russian literature on this subject were therefore taken over by OSI following an agreement between the AD/O and the AD/SI in a memorandum dated 5 October 1951.

"l. The major study produced by OSI on the Presidium consisted of 194 pages and was published on 24 March 1954. The preface of this volume states that it contains 'material translated from Russian language publications . . . for the period 1946 through June 1953.' The bulk of the information contained in this volume was taken from the Academy periodical, Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR. This study of the Presidium covers much of the material already translated by FDD and contains unevaluated exploited material from foreign language documents with a few references from already published English sources.

"m. Language knowledge is, indeed, a tool of research, and OSI analysts must have considerable linguistic facility, but it is not one of OSI's functions to translate, exploit and produce unevaluated information. By CIA Regulation 1-130 the AD/SI is charged with the responsibility

for producing finished evaluated intelligence in scientific and technical fields. In the same Regulation the AD/O has the responsibility for exploiting foreign language publications for information. The following is:

Recommended: (1) the AD/SI, in consultation with the AD/O, should rescind the memorandum of agreement dated 5 October 1951 whereby OSI was to assume the responsibility for translating, exploiting and publishing unevaluated information on the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, USSR; (2) in all future studies of this nature, AD/SI should avail himself of the professional linguistic services of FDB; (3) when lengthy projects are organized in OSI requiring material from open foreign language documents, careful terms of reference should be prepared which will go far toward eliminating possible errors in choices of materials and assuring that the 'magnitude of the effort' and the 'range and character of interests' are understood.

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"n. This recommendation should not reduce in any way the work of OSI linguists in various languages as a part of their normal research in the production of finished and evaluated intelligence. But an adherence to this recommendation, coupled with careful project planning, will relieve OSI analysts of having to translate and exploit their own material. This will release them for the more important analytical tasks required of scientific intelligence research specialists."